Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
and College Chapel
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021
11:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"You are the salt of the earth. And you are here to season the world."

Michael Bassey Johnson

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**

One voice: God summons us to wake up and see,
To follow the light that shines on the path of life.
Many voices: May the light of God shine on us today.

One voice: Here we open our eyes in wonder.
Here we open our hearts in praise.
Many voices: May the presence of God flow through everything we say.

One voice: Here our wounds are cared for.
Here we know we are loved for who we are.
Many voices: May the love of God mend things that are not okay.

One voice: We walk this way together,
On a journey of wonder, healing and love.
Many voices: May the Spirit of God guide us on our way.

All: Let us worship the living God!

***HYMN 645** "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns above"
Text by Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675
Music: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566
MIT FREUDEN ZART

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, through your own emissary, Jesus Christ, you call us to be peacemakers, and yet we sometimes fail to make peace in our own families. Forgive us. You call us to love not just our neighbors and ourselves but our enemies, yet we sometimes fail to love even our friends. Have mercy on us. You call us to be ministers of reconciliation yet we sometimes add to the world's divisions. Pardon us, and renew our energy for the sacred work to which you call us. Through Christ we pray (silent prayer . . .)

THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE
One voice: This is the good news of the gospel, and it is for us all.
Many voices: We are forgiven, we are set free.
By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are loved forever.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL
All those children and youth who are present are invited to come forward at this time.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS
Psalm 19:7-14

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.
10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.
11 By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.
13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.
14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES
Galatians 6 (selected verses)

THE SERMON
Toolbox

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Allee Williams
Rachel Sparling

***HYMN** "Faith Begins by Letting Go"
Text by Carl P. Daw Jr. 1995
Music by Charles F. Gounod, 1872
DIX

Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,
Taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure:
Pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive
So that hope may bear it's fruit; promise fed, our souls will thrive,
Not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
Sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts;
Till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison)

I believe in an innovative God,
who does not wait for us to find ourselves
but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative, and that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in word and deed, the children of the living God.

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into lives of fellowship and service.

I believe in the church as the community of Christ's people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future.

Bruce Prewer (adapted)

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN 432** **"**How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"
Text by Fred Pratt Green, 1981
Music by C. Hubert H. Parry, 1888
REPTON

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able.

CHAPEL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, Minister
Joel P. Rogers, Director of Music, Organist
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder of the Day: Bob Gambrell
Vocalist: Heather Bronson

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PRAYERS GO OUT TO: Erika Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Blake Joslin; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Jon's mother, Marjorie Hettrick; Mark Laabs, friend of the Griswolds; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison, and Pat Crumpler.

OFFERING We will not receive a formal offering today but offering plates are available as you gather.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SPECIAL OFFERING - If you would like to contribute during our traditional special offering month, there are three ways to do that. 1) Through our Church website (click the Give Online button near the top right corner), 2) By check mailed to the Church office - 101 Chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC 28778, 3) By check dropped in an offering plate inside the front door of the sanctuary. If you donate by check, please write Habitat on the memo line.

HOMECOMING Per longstanding tradition, the first weekend of October is Homecoming at Warren Wilson College. As a way to help introduce her to the alumni community, we will welcome the Rev. Dr. Shannon Spencer, the Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life at WWC, as our preacher next Sunday. Shannon and I will also co-lead a "Service of Remembrance" on Friday October 1, at 1:00 p.m. Historically, we have led this service in the Warren Wilson Cemetery. Due to Covid restrictions, we will lead the service in the Chapel this year and it will be made available live, online, via Zoom. If you are interested in "attending" this service, please contact Philip Bassani at (828) 771-3782 in the alumni office to register.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY/PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING Next Sunday is also World Communion Sunday. So we will celebrate Communion with Christian communities literally around the world. We will also receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering — a denominational offering that enables the PC(USA) and its individual congregations to address systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Make your checks payable to WWPC and note "Peace and Global Witness Offering" in the memo line. You may also support this offering through the online giving portal on our website: warrenwilsonchurch.org.

CHOIR Adult choir will begin rehearsals on October 6th at 7:30 PM. (Note date change) We will continue observing whatever COVID protocols are necessary, and if we need to sing masked and socially distanced, we can do that too. We will be as flexible as we need to be to meet the demands of this pandemic. But, we will plan to lift our voices together beginning in October. If you would like to sing and would be interested in joining, just contact me at joelprogers1967@gmail.com or pop up to the balcony any Sunday after church!

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR RAY STOCK We will gather in the sanctuary on Saturday, October 9th, at 2:00 p.m. for a celebration of Ray's life. Following the service, the Congregational Life Team will be hosting a light reception on the porch of the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to contribute cookies or other food items, please contact Sarah Anne Eller for more information.

FLOOD RELIEF UPDATE A check has been sent for $1340 from our congregation to support the ecumenical flood relief effort in Haywood CountyAccording to the Red Cross more than 400 homes have sustained flood damage. If you would like to be part of a clean up team from our church, please call or email Steve Runholt for more information.

COVER ART From public domain.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church and College Chapel



September 26, 2021

101 Chapel Lane ~ Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092

Visit our website by going to:
www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole- and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!